

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3488

ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008

PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAX BY INDIAN MISSION IN USA

Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether a federal judge in New York has recently asked the Indian Government to pay several millions as property taxes and interest for the use of an Indian diplomatic building in Manhattan for non-official purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the US administration; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) & (b) The District Court in New York has ruled in favour of New York City's position regarding payment of real estate taxes on portions of foreign government property that is not used exclusively for the purposes of maintaining offices or quarters for the principal resident representative or resident representative with the rank of Ambassador or Minister plenipotentiary, or offices for the staff of such representative. The amount in question stands at US dollars 41451769.35 (or Rs 169.81 crores as on 17-03-2008).

(c) & (d) At Government's request, the US State Department in its intervention during the court case supported GOI's appeal in order to secure a favourable decision from the Courts of Appeal. We are in contact with the US State Department and with relevant entities within the UN system to find an acceptable solution.